

Fall 8-15-2000

ENG 1002G-008: Composition and Literature

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English 1002 Section 8
Fall 2000
Composition and Literature

Dr. Carol Stevens

Class meets 12:30-1:45 p.m. TuTh in Coleman 311

Contact Information:

Office 315J Coleman

Hours 3:30-5:30 TuTh, W 3:30-4:30 and by appt.

(Please note: office hours are subject to rescheduling)

Phone and Voice Mail 581-6970

E-mail cfcds@eiu.edu

Course Description

The catalog describes this course as "a writing course designed to improve skills in critical thinking and analytical expression based on the reading of literary texts." Expect a great deal of reading in poetry, drama, and fiction accompanied by a great deal of discussion, writing, revising, and editing.

Course Objectives

English 1002G is part of the General Education curriculum. Its goals are to help you write and speak effectively, demonstrate that you can think critically, and function as a responsible citizen, starting with responsible citizenship in this course. More specifically, you will achieve these goals by working on your literary reading, writing, research, discussion, and ability to review helpfully the work of your classmates.

Textbooks

Charters, The Story and Its Writer, 5th ed.

Fulweiler and Hayakawa, The Blair Handbook, 2nd ed.

Griffith, Writing Essays about Literature, 5th ed.

Meyer, Poetry, an Introduction, 5th ed.

Worthen, The Harcourt Brace Anthology of Drama, 3rd ed.

Grades

All assignments will be given point values. Work done in groups, class discussions, writing preparation and revision will be reflected in those values. The course is graded "A-B-C-No Credit," and you must achieve at least a C to pass. Do all the work with some degree of care and skill and participate every day, and your grade will most likely be a C. Do it with care, put in extra effort, AND produce good work, and your grade will most likely be a B. Go above and beyond the requirements for an assignment, do excellent work, and show both skill and creativity/depth of thought and you may receive an A.. Go through the motions, turn in work that reflects lack of care or skill, accumulate absences, and be unprepared for class and you will probably earn a "No Credit."

Grade breakdown:

Journals and short writings 150 points

Exams 250 points

Papers 400 points

Presentation 100 points

Participation 100 points

Figuring your grade:

901-1000 points A

801-900 points B

701-800 points C

Below 700 No Credit

Attendance/Participation Policy

Participation counts for 100 points of your grade. That's enough to lower a grade by a full letter. You can't participate if you're not here. If you're absent more than a week (two classes), your grade will probably suffer, both because you haven't participated, and because you'll have less idea what's going on and will make less progress. 'Nuf said. I will take attendance every day, and construction or not, class will begin and end on time. Don't assume you have two absences and can take them as you like, then take more without consequences if you get sick. Severe illnesses and emergencies will be accommodated according to university policy, as will representing the university at an OFFICIAL function, such as participation on an athletic team or in band. Social and service organization participation is voluntary. Make your choices accordingly.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodation, please contact the Office of Disability Services, 581-6583 (9th St. Hall).

Journals

You will have a journal assignment due most days. I will collect them daily at the end of class. Figure on around 30 class days. That means each entry will be worth about 5 points. I will often suggest a focus for the writing. Your journal will usually be response to, exploration of, and questions about the reading for that day. They should be specific enough as to leave no doubt that you have done the reading. Assignments may be neatly handwritten or typed, and should be around 200 words long. Keep them in a folder that you bring to class every day, because we will often use them as a starting point for discussions.

Papers and Exams

There will be four papers, one on each of the three genres, and one on a topic to be announced. Papers will usually involve some research and documentation. Exams will be comprehensive and will take place at mid-term and during the scheduled period for the final exam. They will include identification and short essay plus longer essay questions. Late paper assignments will have grades reduced. Failure to turn in one of the papers will result in failing the course.

Presentations/Discussions

Each student will do a presentation on a poem. Presentations will be 10-15 minutes long, and students will choose their poems from a list to be announced. Students will be expected to read the poem aloud to the class, to present, as appropriate, background information about the poet or the history, information we need to know to understand the poem, and questions for discussion and interpretation. Students will be responsible on the exams for material covered in student presentations and class discussions. Participation should reflect tolerance of difference in belief, background and experience, respect for each other, and the ability to contribute meaningfully without monopolizing discussion.

Academic Honesty

The English Department's statement on plagiarism is as follows: Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—"The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work" (Random House Dictionary of the English Language) has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office. I expect you to do your own work, and to use only authorized help such as the Writing Center, conferences with me, and student discussion groups. I expect you to use sources properly, with appropriate imbedding into your work, use of appropriate paraphrase, summary, and quotation skills, and careful and painstaking documentation. This applies also to media other than print, including on-line and web sources.

General Schedule

- I. Fiction August 22-September 26*
- II. Poetry September 28-October 26*
- III. Drama November 7—December 7*

Paper and Exam Due Dates

*Papers will be due September 21, October 19, November 14, and December 5.
Exams will be October 5 during class and Wednesday December 13 from 12:30 to 2:30.*

If I've left something out, or you have a question for me, call 581-6970 and leave a message or e-mail me. I will usually respond by the end of the next working day.